

Implementation of mobile number portability

3059. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recommendations of TRAI regarding implementation of mobile number portability is being opposed by large mobile operators such as BSNL, Bharti and Hutch etc.;

(b) the steps taken by TRAI to facilitate introduction of this consumer friendly measure in the mobile service sector;

(c) the reasons for rejection of recommendations of TRAI regarding implementation of mobile number portability by Government;

(d) whether TRAI plans to undertake a consultation process once again on the implementation of mobile number portability; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has submitted its recommendations on Mobile Number Portability on 8.3.2006. During the consultation process, some of the stakeholders have state that :

(i) In most of the countries the Mobile Number Portability was introduced at a time when the tele-density was around 25% to 30%.

(ii) Most of the mobile operators are at present involved in rolling out of their network in the semi-urban/rural areas and hence it is not the right time to introduce Mobile Number Portability as they will have to incur heavy expenditure on upgradation of their network/ switches for Mobile Number Portability;

(iii) There is enough competition in all the license areas and hence the introduction of Mobile Number Portability will not yield major benefit to the customer.

(c) As on date, no decision has been taken on the recommendation of TRAI on Mobile Number Portability.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (c) above.